

Pending Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented): Hose member having a central region surrounded by a circumferential portion comprising a number of metal tubes which are substantially parallel to each other and wound in a helical manner around a longitudinal axis of the hose member, the tubes having an internal diameter of about 1 to about 6 mm and a wall thickness of about 0.1 and about 0.5 mm.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein each of the tubes has an internal diameter between 2 and 4 mm.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the tubes have a wall thickness between 0.2 and 0.4 mm.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein each of the tubes has a pitch angle of about 50 to about 85 degrees.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the circumferential portion is at least partly made of more than one layer of tubes.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the tubes are at least partly embedded in a protective carrier.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein each tube is coated with a protective coating.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the circumferential portion of the hose member defines a substantially closed surface.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the ends of the tubes at a first end of the hose member are all connected to a first manifold, and the ends of the tubes at an oppositely-disposed second end of the hose member are all connected to a second manifold, so as to form a fluid connection between the two manifolds.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the central region of the hose member is defined by a carrier made of a polymeric material.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the metal tubes are formed of aluminium or an aluminium alloy.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the hose member is installed in an automotive vehicle and the tubes transport a pressurized fluid.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 1, wherein the central region of the hose member is defined by a longitudinal central cavity.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): Hose member comprising:
a core member coinciding with a longitudinal axis of the hose member and extending from a first end to an oppositely-disposed second end of the hose member, the core member being formed of a polymeric material;
and

a circumferential portion surrounding and contacting the core member, the circumferential portion comprising a plurality of tubes that are substantially parallel to each other and wound in a helical manner around the core member.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 14, wherein the core member is formed of an elastomeric material.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 14, wherein the hose member and the core member thereof are flexibly deformable in directions parallel to the longitudinal axis.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 14, wherein the tubes are embedded in a protective carrier and the tubes and protective carrier define a closed surface surrounding and enclosing the core member.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): Hose member comprising:
an internal cavity coinciding with a longitudinal axis of the hose member and extending from a first end to an oppositely-disposed second end of the hose member; and

a circumferential portion surrounding the internal cavity, the circumferential portion comprising a plurality of tubes embedded in a protective carrier, the tubes being substantially parallel to each other and wound in a helical manner so as to define with the protective carrier a closed surface surrounding and enclosing the internal cavity.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 18, wherein the hose member is flexibly deformable in directions parallel to the longitudinal axis.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): Hose member according to claim 18, further comprising a longitudinal element protectively disposed within the internal cavity.